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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Jody Murphy
Office Seeking: State Senate
Party Affiliation: Democrat
District: 3

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 914
Address 2: 26th Street
City/Town: Parkersburg
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 26104
Country: United States
Email Address: Murphy4WV@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3049912350

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state)

Fayetteville High School

Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA)

**Concord College, BAs in History and Political Sci,
minors in Ed and Phil.**

Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations)

Fed Ex,

Describe your current job & responsibilities

Driver

How long have you worked for your current employer?

3.5 years

Q4

Describe your overall philosophy toward the role of state government as it relates to business and industry.

State Government: to provide tools for local governments to attract and grow businesses, while at the same time monitoring manufacturing sites and facilities to make sure they are good neighbors and community members.

Q5

What do you bring to the office you seek? Specifically, what have you built, improved, or changed for the benefit of your community or business?

Founder and Chair of MOV's Launchpad Initiative; a new business and entrepreneurship pitch contest that helped more than 60 small businesses grow, start up and expand in the MOVRC's 7 county region. Also served as Exec. Dir of Pleasants Area Chamber of Commerce, worked for Pleasants County Development Authority and sat on a couple of industrial CAP committees (Solvay and Pleasants Power Station). Helped Sistersville Tanks Works expand. Helped rebuild the only grocery store in Pleasants County and saved them about \$25K in taxes, landed 3 small businesses in downtown St. Marys without spending a dime of government money.

Q6

Please list any groups, associations, or non-profits in which you are an active member or volunteer such as civic groups, labor organizations, advocacy groups.

Knights of Columbus

Q7

West Virginia is facing many challenges. What do you consider to be the most important and critical challenge that threatens our state and what is your plan to alleviate this threat?

Declining population and severe decrease of current and future workforce and tax base. My plan: To make the MOV the entrepreneurship capital of the state, through incentives (such as giving land and buildings away to attract growth and development) as well as vastly improving infrastructure in our small towns to help facilitate and develop and growth and create a thriving at-home based business economy.

Q8

Do you support the passage of Amendment One on the November 2022 General Election ballot? The measure provides the legislature with the authority to repeal or phase out tangible personal property in the future, this includes tax on personal vehicles, small business inventory, and tax on manufacturing inventory, machinery, and equipment.

NO. The loss of taxes will decimate our local governments and school systems. The vast majority of the state's annual budget is funded on the backs on working tax-paying WVians.

Q9

What ideas do you have to help build our state's economy and improve West Virginia's position in competing for investment and job growth?

Develop Entrepreneurship. Recruit and retain working class taxpayers. Create income tax free retirement communities and entrepreneurship zones and give land away to attract large "anchor" companies.

Q10

Use of and addiction to opioids in West Virginia and our region have reached crisis levels. This is a problem being recognized not only at the state level, but at the federal level. What ideas do you have to help stop this devastating trend in our state?

- 1: Decriminalize self-harm.
 - 2: Provide mental health professionals at the school level.
 - 3: If I had any REALLY good ideas I'd be governor. No one seems to have any good ideas.
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Q11

Racial justice and equity, LGBTQ rights and gender equity are important factors for many current West Virginia employers, companies that consider moving to our State, and employees who may consider relocating to West Virginia. How would you address these issues to recruit and retain companies and employees for whom this is a priority?

If this is a problem I am unaware of it, but will be happy to take up ANY issues with prospective and current business owners who feel this, or any other equity issues, are interfering with their ability to compete and be profitable.

Q12

What are your specific ideas for addressing workforce skills gaps in industry? Specifically, with the growth of manufacturing jobs in the state and need for diverse and skilled labor, what are your ideas to prepare the state's current and future workforce for manufacturing jobs.

Overhaul secondary education. Less state BOE and legislative control and MORE local control, allowing our students easier opportunities to do internships, work-study opportunities instead of taking unnecessary classes.

Q13

What are your ideas for improving outcomes in the state's K-12 public education system?

See above (answer to Number 12).
MORE Local Control.

Q14

What ideas do you have for incorporating a focus on STEM education in our public schools and how could industry engage to support increased workforce learning models in middle and high schools, as well as career and technical education centers (vo-tech)?

See answer No. 12: Allow county school systems and vo-tech centers to work hand-in-hand with local industry and manufacturing to produce a ready-made and educated workforce. Introduce middle school students to vocational system.

Q15

Please describe policies that you believe may be helpful in balancing state regulations and environmental rules while maintaining a competitive atmosphere for industrial job growth and investment?

Policies? I should be able to breathe clean air and drink C-8 free water. Yes, there needs to be a balance, but state government also needs a BIG stick for companies who run afoul of our policies and spoil our environment in pursuit of profits.

Q16

What do you think West Virginia could do to promote energy diversity including the growth of renewable energy sources in the state?

Incentives to diversify. And maybe some new elected officials who aren't tied solely to King Coal, but also open to wind, solar, hydro options as well as a commitment and incentives to further grow the potential output for these opportunities. I worked in Pleasants County (The powerhouse for the state. Home to coal-fired power plants, hydro-electric plants and gas-fired power plants.

Q17

Many corporations have established environmental, social, and governance criteria. How would such goals impact your decision making on relevant policy issues as a member of legislator?

I don't quite understand this question. ... Depends. Criteria is similar to policy. It is not law and subject to change or not be followed. Goals are great, but if they are constantly moved, then it's clearly not working as a goal. As a lawmaker, I'd be interested in helping companies achieve those goals on time and in a responsible (to the environment and workforce) manner

Q18

If you could work on a single piece of legislation to help support manufacturers with in the state of West Virginia what would it be? and Why?

Off the top of my head: Improving and developing gas line feed stock through the state, esp. the MOV.

Q19

Would you be available for an interview remotely or in person?

Absolutely.

Q20

Where may the WVMA follow you on social media? Please list social media handles including Facebook, Twitter, and others.

Facebook: Murphy4wvsenate

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3-vRi5Egsd8y806V3M2iOw>

Twitter: @JodyMur56910114
